

Illustrated by: Robert Tomala
Written by: Stella Schaller, Janani Vivekananda

MOHAMED'S STORY

ESCAPING THE CLIMATE CONFLICT TRAP



Journalist Arno travels to Chad, to hear the story of Mohamed, one of the people displaced by the conflict.

I AM
LOOKING FOR
MOHAMED.

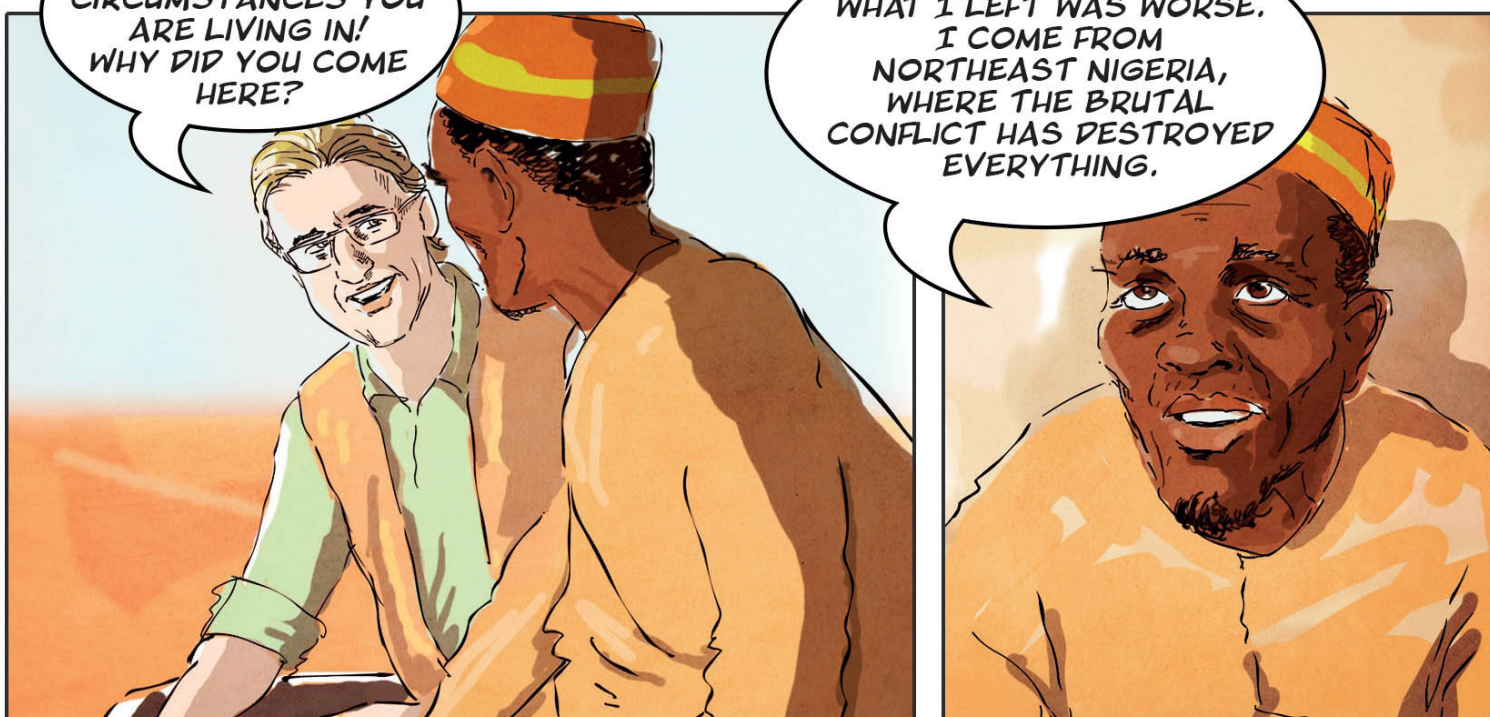


Over 10 million people are in urgent humanitarian need.
2,5 million people had to flee due to conflict.



THESE ARE TRYING
CIRCUMSTANCES YOU
ARE LIVING IN!
WHY DID YOU COME
HERE?

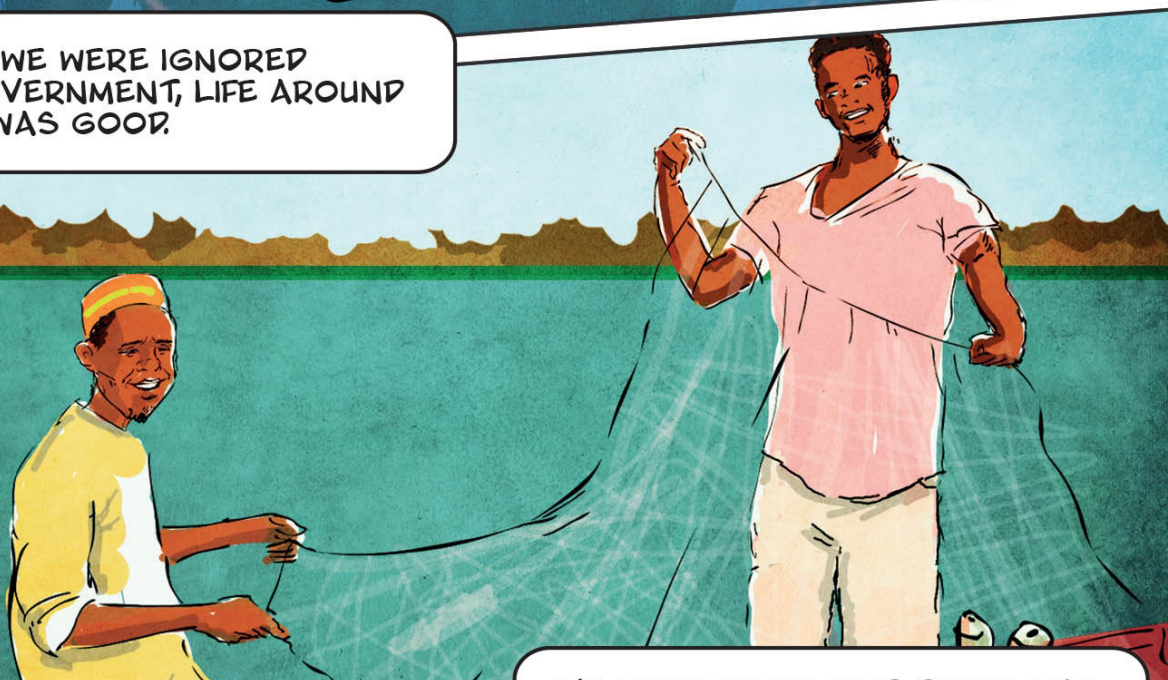
BELIEVE ME,
WHAT I LEFT WAS WORSE.
I COME FROM
NORTHEAST NIGERIA,
WHERE THE BRUTAL
CONFLICT HAS DESTROYED
EVERYTHING.



Many years ago, the Lake Chad was a thriving oasis in the dry Sahel, a bustling economic hub.



ALTHOUGH WE WERE IGNORED BY THE GOVERNMENT, LIFE AROUND THE LAKE WAS GOOD.




TRADERS AND HERDERS WOULD PASS THROUGH OUR MARKET. MY DAUGHTER WORKED THERE AND HER VEGETABLE STALL WAS ALWAYS BUSY.



WE WERE POOR, BUT THERE WAS ENOUGH WATER AND FOOD FOR ALL OF US.





The lake has always varied in size.
People adapted to the seasons, switching their jobs
according to the water supply, or through seasonal migration.

DURING THE DRY SEASON,
WHEN THE LAKE WAS SHALLOWER,
I COULD FARM...

...AND DURING THE WET
SEASON I COULD FISH...



...OR GRAZE OUR CATTLE.



BUT THEN THINGS
BEGAN TO CHANGE.

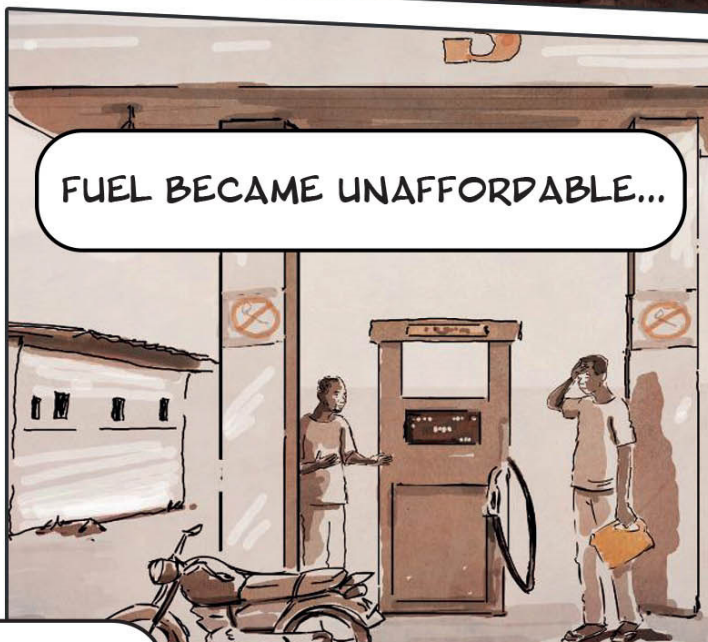
IN THE 70S AND 80S,
AN INTENSE DROUGHT
STRUCK THE ENTIRE REGION...



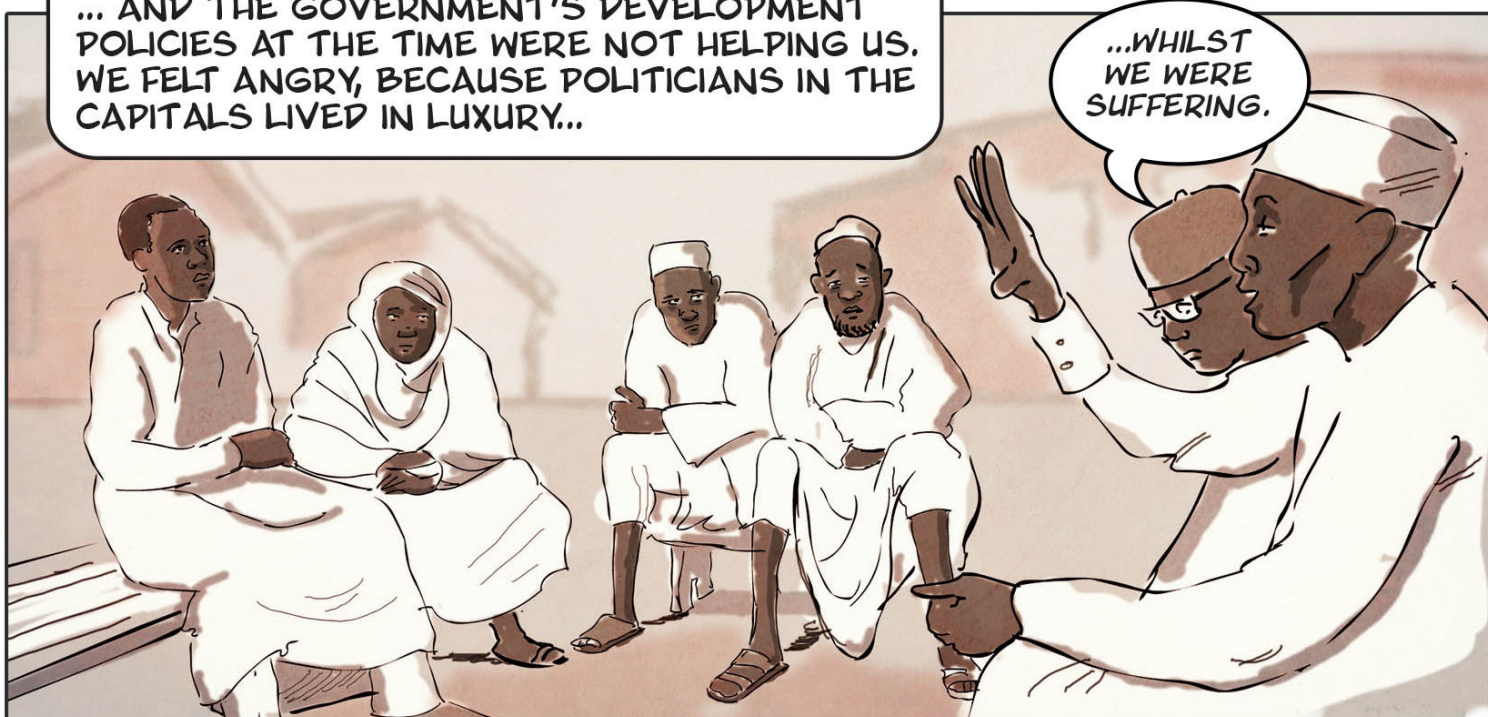
...AND MORE PEOPLE CAME
TO THE LAKE IN SEARCH
OF WATER.



FUEL BECAME UNAFFORDABLE...



... AND THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT
POLICIES AT THE TIME WERE NOT HELPING US.
WE FELT ANGRY, BECAUSE POLITICIANS IN THE
CAPITALS LIVED IN LUXURY...



...WHILST
WE WERE
SUFFERING.

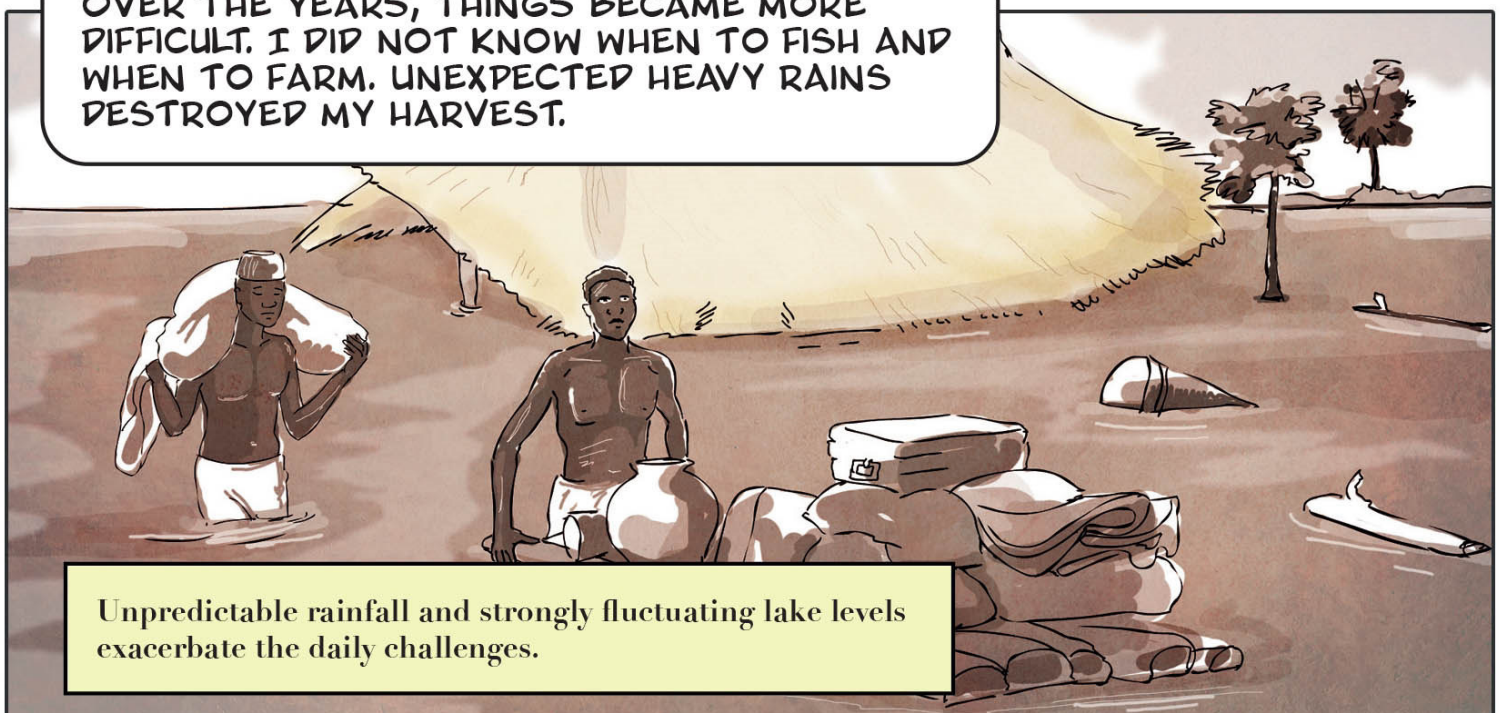


AT THE SAME TIME, A GROUP OF PROTESTERS, WHICH YOU CALL BOKO HARAM, OFFERED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND PROMISED BETTER LIVES FOR EVERYONE.

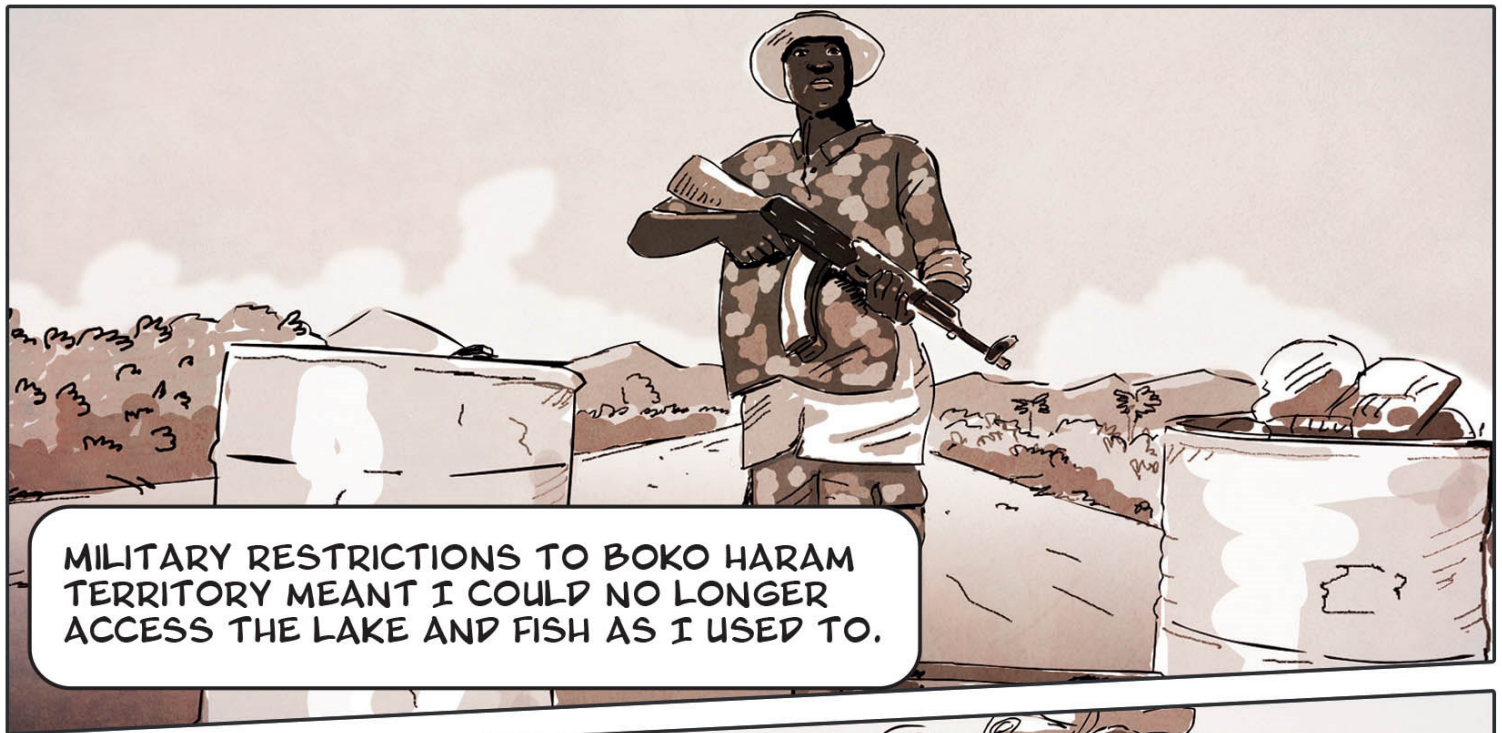
In 2009, some protesters morphed into a brutal armed group. The conflict escalated.



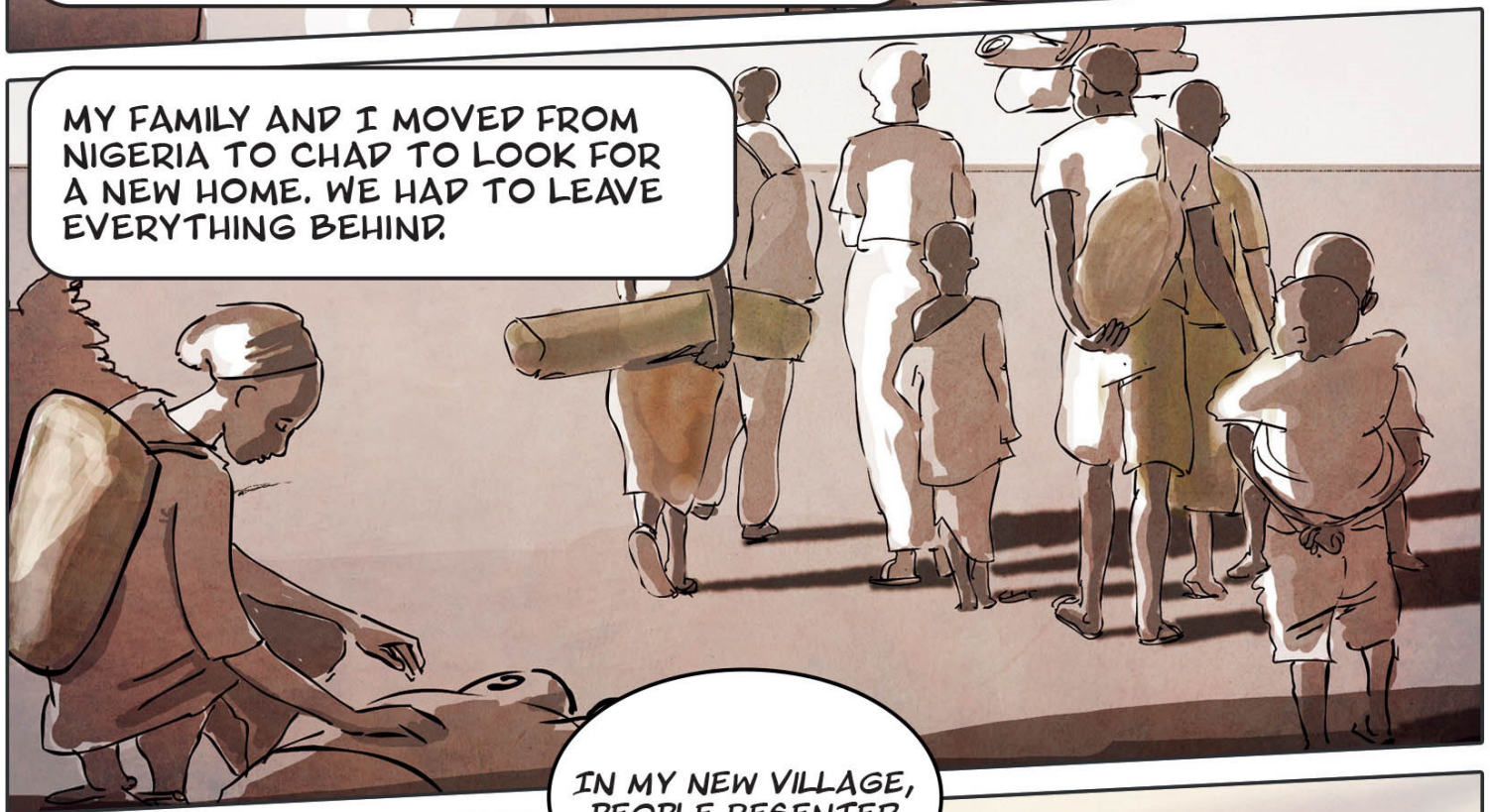
OVER THE YEARS, THINGS BECAME MORE DIFFICULT. I DID NOT KNOW WHEN TO FISH AND WHEN TO FARM. UNEXPECTED HEAVY RAINS DESTROYED MY HARVEST.



Unpredictable rainfall and strongly fluctuating lake levels exacerbate the daily challenges.



MILITARY RESTRICTIONS TO BOKO HARAM TERRITORY MEANT I COULD NO LONGER ACCESS THE LAKE AND FISH AS I USED TO.



MY FAMILY AND I MOVED FROM NIGERIA TO CHAD TO LOOK FOR A NEW HOME. WE HAD TO LEAVE EVERYTHING BEHIND.



IN MY NEW VILLAGE, PEOPLE RESENTED ME,...

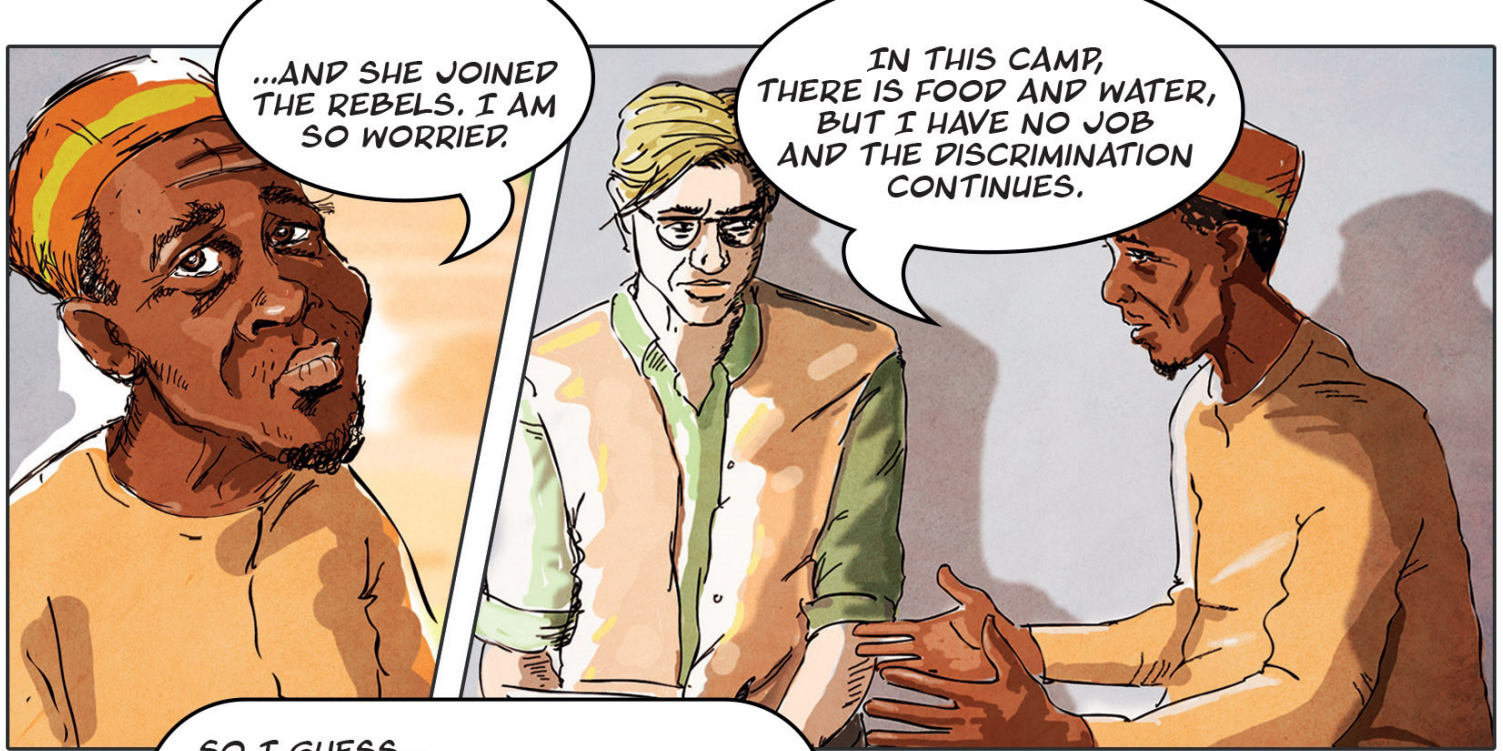


...FOR FISHING IN THEIR PART
OF THE LAKE.

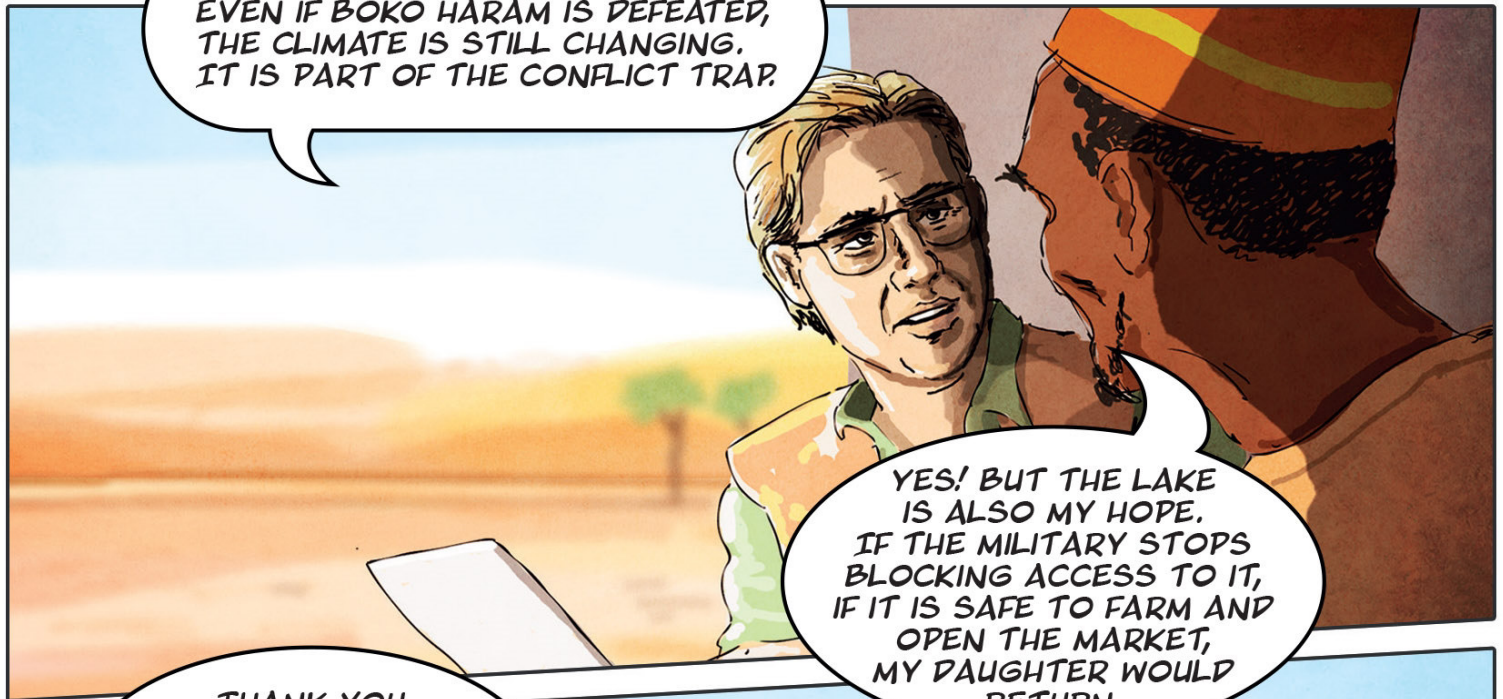
In the communities around Lake Chad, life became even more dire. Competition over land and water intensified - both because of the climate and the security situation.

MY ELDEST DAUGHTER FELT SHE HAD NO PROSPECTS.
LIFE IN THE CAMP WAS DANGEROUS.
THE REBELS OFFERED HER EDUCATION AND FOOD...





SO I GUESS...
EVEN IF BOKO HARAM IS DEFEATED,
THE CLIMATE IS STILL CHANGING.
IT IS PART OF THE CONFLICT TRAP.



THANK YOU
SO MUCH FOR SHARING
YOUR STORY, MOHAMED.
I WISH YOU
GOOD LUCK.



ABOUT THIS COMIC

Lake Chad is caught in a conflict trap. Climate change and conflict create a feedback loop where climate change creates additional pressures while conflict undermines communities' abilities to cope. Over 2 million people have been displaced and 10.7 million people are currently in need of assistance.

The Lake Chad Risk Assessment project, carried out by a team of local researchers and climate experts, led by adelphi, is a concerted effort to address critical knowledge gaps on climate and fragility risks in the region. The Lake Chad Risk Assessment was financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

MOHAMED'S STORY is based on more than 200 targeted interviews with a variety of religious, occupational and ethno-linguistic groups living around Lake Chad as well as satellite data-based long-term observation studies of the hydrology and climate variability of the lake. The research took place in Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Nigeria from November 2017 to June 2019.

Our website www.shoring-up-stability.org, Twitter account @adelphi_berlin and the hashtag #ShoringUpStability will help you stay up-to-date with the developments in the Lake Chad region. To get in touch, contact Janani Vivekanda, adelphi: vivekananda@adelphi.de.

Supported by:



Federal Foreign Office



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Published by:

adelphi research gemeinnützige GmbH
Alt-Moabit 91
10559 Berlin, Germany

P + 49 30 89 000 68-0
F + 49 30 89 000 68-10

office@adelphi.de
www.adelphi.de

© adelphi 2019

Printed by:

DBM Druckhaus Berlin-Mitte GmbH
Wilhelm-Kabus-Straße 21-35
10829 Berlin, Germany